GROW PITTSBURGH

SCHOOL GARDENS IMPACT REPORT

Thanks to your generosity, the 2024-2025 school year was a year of growth for school gardens across Allegheny County. Your support helped to create and sustain thriving garden spaces, giving children the chance to grow, cook, and enjoy the magic of fresh food and gardens.

Your support has helped to grow our school gardens network into 74 flourishing gardens, connecting more than 28,000 students to hands-on garden education each year. Your contributions also connected teachers with valuable resources, including lesson plans, recipes, and a community of peers to learn and grow alongside.

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

- **21** school gardens received hands-on active programming with our team
- **4** new school gardens created in 2024-2025
- **100%** of teachers believe gardening enhanced student engagement in class
- **100%** of teachers believe that work in the school garden increased student capacity for teamwork and cooperation
- **100%** of teachers feel that students experienced physical and emotional benefits from being outdoors
- **100%** of teachers believe that children enjoyed trying new foods from the garden

Everyone LOVES the garden. One of our teachers uses it for her leadership program with the students. They look forward to working in the garden and helping the younger students plant different types of veggies.

-Teacher at Duquesne Elementary School

Our Pre-K program is training young children to love growing plants and watching them grow.

- Teacher at Weil PreK-5

I had a student who needed strategies to calm himself and he found that working in the garden was a good strategy for him to find peace.

-Teacher at Manchester 3-5

The garden helps get some students to come out of their shells. They enjoy the "non-academic" space and exploring. Students who do not enjoy the activities of recess find peace in the garden during recess times. Many have taken home seeds and produce from the garden and have begun to grow at home.

- Teacher at Schiller 6-8